## CLAIMS

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising:

(1) an amino acid sequence at least 90% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 1;

(2) an immunogenic fragment comprising eight consecutive amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 1 that specifically binds to an antibody that specifically binds a polypeptide comprising amino acids 157-933 of SEQ ID NO: 1; or

(3) an amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 1.

2. The isolated polypeptide of claim 1, comprising a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence at least 90% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 1.

3. The isolated polypeptide of claim 2, comprising an amino acid sequence at least 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 1.

4. The isolated polypeptide of claim 1, comprising an immunogenic fragment comprising eight consecutive amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 1 that specifically binds to an antibody that specifically binds a polypeptide comprising amino acids 157-933 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

5. The isolated polypeptide of claim 1, comprising an amino acid sequence as set forth as SEQ ID NO: 1.

6. An isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of claim 1.

7. The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 6, comprising a sequence as set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2, or a degenerate variant thereof.

8. The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 6, operably linked to a promoter.

9. An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence of claim 6.

10. A host cell transfected with the nucleic acid sequence of claim 6.

11. The host cell of claim 10, wherein the host cell is a mammalian cell.

12. An antibody that specifically binds the polypeptide of claim 1.

13. The antibody of claim 12, wherein the antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

14. The antibody of claim 12 comprising a detectable label.

15. The antibody of claim 12, wherein the label is a fluorescent, enzymatic or radioactive label.

16. The antibody of claim 12 conjugated to a toxin.

17. A method for detecting prostate cancer in a subject, comprising

contacting a sample obtained from the subject with the antibody of claim 12 for a sufficient amount of time to form an immune complex;

detecting the presence the immune complex, wherein the presence of an immune complex demonstrates the presence of prostate cancer in the subject.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the sample is a biopsy, blood, serum, or urine sample.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein the sample is a biopsy sample of non-prostate origin.

20. The method of claim 17, wherein the antibody is labeled.

21. A method for detecting a prostate cancer in a subject, comprising

detecting the expression of the polypeptide of claim 1 in a sample from the subject, wherein an increase in the expression of the polypeptide as compared to a control indicates the presence of the prostate cancer.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein detecting the expression of polypeptide comprises detecting a polypeptide having a sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 2 in the sample.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein detecting the expression of the polypeptide comprises

contacting the sample with an antibody that specifically binds the polypeptide for a sufficient amount of time to form an immune complex; and

detecting the presence of the immune complex.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein detecting the expression of the polypeptide comprises detecting the presence of mRNA encoding the polypeptide.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein detecting the presence of mRNA encoding the polypeptide comprises a Northern Blot analysis, an RNA Dot blot, or a reverse transcriptase polypermase chain reaction (RT-PCR) assay.

26. A method for producing an immune response against a cell expressing a polypeptide of claim 1 in a subject, the method comprising

administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide of claim 1, or a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide, thereby producing the immune response.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the immune response is a T cell response.

28. The method of claim 26, wherein the immune response is a B cell response.

29. The method of claim 26, wherein the subject has prostate cancer.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the immune response decreases the growth of the prostate cancer.

31. A method for inhibiting the growth of a malignant cell expressing the polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising,

(i) culturing cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs) or CTL precursor cells with the polypeptide of claim 1 to produce activated CTLs or CTL precursors that recognize an NGEP expressing cell, and

(ii) contacting the malignant cell with the activated CTLs or CTLs matured from the CTL precursors,

thereby inhibiting the growth of the malignant cell.

32. A method for inhibiting the growth of a malignant cell, comprising:

contacting the malignant cell with an effective amount of a cell-growth inhibiting molecule, wherein the cell growth inhibiting molecule comprises an antibody which specifically binds a polypeptide comprising

(1) an amino acid sequence at least 90% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 1;

(2) an immunogenic fragment comprising eight consecutive amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 1 that specifically binds to an antibody that specifically binds a polypeptide comprising amino acids 157-933 of SEQ ID NO: 1; or

(3) an amino acid sequence set forth as SEQ ID NO: 1;

wherein the antibody is covalently linked to an effector molecule which inhibits the growth of cells,

thereby inhibiting the growth of the malignant cell.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

34. The method of claim 32, wherein the effector molecule is a chemotherapeutic agent.

35. The method of claim 32, wherein the effector molecule comprises a toxic moiety.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the toxic moiety is selected from the group consisting of ricin A, abrin, diphtheria toxin or a subunit thereof, *Pseudomonas* exotoxin or a portion thereof, saporin, restrictocin or gelonin.

37. The method of claim 35, wherein the *Pseudomonas* exotoxin is selected from the group consisting of PE35, PE37, PE38, and PE40.

38. The method of claim 35, wherein the malignant cell is *in vivo*.

39. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

40. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the polynucleotide of claim 6 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

41. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the antibody of claim 12 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

42. A method for reducing the number of prostate cancer cells in a subject, comprising

administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the polypeptide of claim 1, wherein the administration of the NGEP results in an immune response to NGEP,

thereby reducing the number of prostate cancer cells in the subject.

43. A method for reducing the number of prostate cancer cells in a subject, comprising

administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the polynucleotide of claim 6, wherein the administration of the polynucleotide results in an immune response,

thereby reducing the number of prostate cancer cells in the subject.

44. A method for reducing the number of prostate cancer cells in a subject, comprising

administering to the subject a therapeutically effective amount of the antibody of claim 16,

thereby reducing the number of prostate cancer cells in the subject.

45. A kit for detecting an polynucleotide encoding NGEP in a sample, comprising

an isolated nucleic acid sequence of at least ten nucleotides in length that specifically binds to SEQ ID NO: 2 under highly stringent hybridization conditions; and

instructions for the use of the isolated nucleic acid sequence.

46. A kit for detecting an NGEP polypeptide in a sample, comprising

an monoclonal antibody that specifically binds to an antigenic epitope of SEQ ID NO: 1; and

instructions for the use of the antibody.